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MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF
Attorney Docket 0515-1031
PATENT

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE
THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of	Appeal No.
Robert ANDRE et al.	Conf. 9542
Application No. 09/914,181	Group 1733
Filed December 7, 2001	Examiner Jeff Aftergut
TITLE PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AN ACOUSTICALLY ATTENUATING PANEL WITH A RESISTIVE LAYER WITH STRUCTURAL PROPERTY AND PANEL THUS OBTAINED	

REBUTTAL BRIEF

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS:

August 8, 2006

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.197(b1), Appellant responds to the Examiner's Answer of June 8, 2006 as follows:

The applied rejection relies on a combination of EP0 897 174 and EP0 911 803.

If a person of ordinary skill in this art had these two references before him or her, then the process of the present invention would not have been obvious to such a person, for the following reasons:

In EP0 997 174, the process begins with placing on a mold an acoustic panel, and emplacing on a panel a structural layer, and then emplacing the honeycomb structure and the reflector above the structural layer.

This sequence makes sense in EP0 997 174, in that the structural layer is placed on the acoustic panel to reinforce it while the acoustic panel rests on a base surface.

In view of this logical placement sequence, wherein the panel to be protected rests on a support surface, and then is covered by the protecting element during the process, one skilled in the art would recognize that, if it were desired to place the acoustic panel under the structural layer, a logical sequence would be first to emplace the reflector, then the honeycomb, and afterward the acoustic panel and the structural layer, so that the acoustic panel is sandwiched during the manufacturing process in order that it may rest on a base of this and be covered by the structural layer during the process.

According to this logical sequence, the emplacement of the structural layer is at the end of the process and the acoustic panel is covered by the structural layer during the process.

But the sequence of the process of the present invention does not follow what would be logical from combining EP0 897 174 and EP0 911 803.

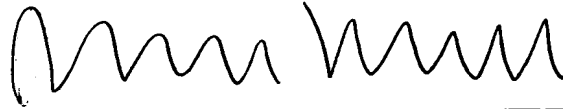
The sequence of the process claimed on appeal, includes a step wherein the structural layer does not cover the acoustic layer, but wherein the structural layer is covered by the acoustic panel. This step is in direct contrast with what would

be the normal practice apparent to one skilled in the art contemplating both EP0 897 174 and EP0 911 803.

In view of this, it is believed that the rejections of record must be reversed, and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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